



DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS)

The OBTS system describes the processing of adults arrested for felony

offenses from arrest through final disposition. "Final" disposition refers to a specific legal action which takes place following an adult felony arrest. Final disposition can occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, or court level.

Only the final disposition of an arrest event is selected for statistical purposes. Intermediate dispositions (diversion programs, suspended proceedings, reopenings, retrials, or subsequent actions) are not included in the OBTS data.

If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the OBTS system selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment. If there are multiple court dispositions, the OBTS system selects the most serious court disposition and the associated offense.

OBTS are grouped by the year of disposition regardless of the year in which the arrest occurred.

Adult Felony Arrest Disposition data represent final dispositions equal to approximately 65-75 percent of the total adult felony arrests made during a calendar year. Therefore, final dispositions may occur in a year following the year of arrest. In the aggregate, the data generally describe state patterns; however, this may not be the case in any particular county.

Caution should be used when comparing conviction and nonconviction dispositions since budget constraints necessitated the processing of conviction dispositions on a priority basis. Therefore, fluctuations from year to year may not necessarily be due to actual occurrences in the criminal justice system, but only reflect the degree to which reports of dispositions were reported and processed.

OBTS data for state institutional commitments may vary from information compiled and reported by other state agencies because of differences in the data collection systems and criteria.

The OBTS file includes some persons whose age at the time of arrest was under 18. These minors received a final disposition in adult court under provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code sections 602, 707(a), 707(b), 707(c), and 707.1(a).

ADULT PROBATION

Data are limited to original grants of probation and do not include subsequent grants of probation to persons already under supervised probation by the same level court in the same county. Persons are counted once for each jurisdiction. Also, probationers who are jurisdictional cases of more than one county are counted more than one time in statewide totals.

Due to reporting problems, Los Angeles County submitted corrections for 1997 and 1998. Their caseload counts for 1997 decreased and their 1998 counts increased from previously published data.

For 2002, Marin County implemented a new computer system. Due to difficulty with the new system, they were unable to extract data for November and December.

For 2000, Mariposa County reported a negative caseload count for the misdemeanor offense level. The negative count resulted from more probationers being removed from probation at the beginning of the year than what was added during the year.

Beginning in March 2002, Placer County caseload counts increased due to the combination of the Tahoe City and Auburn offices. Previously, the Tahoe City office counts were not reported.

For August through December 2002, Sacramento County combined their felony and misdemeanor offense counts resulting from a computer program change and audit.

San Bernardino County data are incomplete for 2001 due to a loss of personnel.

San Francisco County reported incomplete data for 2000. Also, they were unable to report for 2001 and 2002 due to computer program issues and budget cuts.

San Joaquin County reported a negative count for caseloads of felony offense level for 2002.

Sierra County did not report data for 1998.

For 1998, Solano County reported estimates for the number of placements. Also, they did not report data for 1999.

Yolo County experienced programming problems and was unable to report for 2000, and only partially reported for 2001 (April through December).

Counties not reporting misdemeanor offense counts for 2002 were Contra Costa, Siskiyou, Tulare, and Yolo.

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DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS (continued)

ARRESTS

Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR)

If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, MACR selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment.

Felony arrest counts may include some misdemeanor warrants for felony offenses.

The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data.

In February 2002, Adelanto Police Department became a contract agency to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Due to a computer tracking error, the adult arrests were included in the sheriff's department reports and cannot be separated for February through December. The juvenile arrests for this time period are shown separately.

Alcohol Beverage Control Northern and Alcohol Beverage Control Southern began reporting January 1, 2002.

The Berkeley Police Department did not report data for September through December 2002.

The Butte County Sheriff's Department did not report data for 2002.

CSU Stockton reported data for January through June 2002. On July 1, 2002, it became a contract with the Stockton Police Department. Its data for July through December is included in the police department's reports.

The Goleta Police Department began reporting separately from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department on February 1, 2002.

The Isleton Police Department did not report data for October through December 2002.

The Truckee Police Department began reporting January 1, 2002.

CRIMES

The number of reported homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while the number of robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson crimes represents known incidents.

If multiple crimes occur during the same event, only the most serious (based on hierarchy) is counted; arson is the exception.

In 2002, all homicide crime reports were received and processed for all agencies.

The Berkeley Police Department did not report data for September through December 2002.

The Butte County Sheriff's Department did not report data for May through December 2002. Arson was reported for all of 2002.

CSU Stockton reported data for January through June 2002. On July 1, 2002, it became a contract with the Stockton Police Department. Its data for July through December is included in the police department's reports.

The Goleta Police Department began reporting separately from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department on February 1, 2002.

The Isleton Police Department did not report data for October through December 2002.

The Santa Maria Police Department did not report data for October through December 2002.

The Sebastopol Police Department did not report data for November 2002.

The Truckee Police Department began reporting January 1, 2002.

Motor vehicle thefts are reported by the California Highway Patrol for the Contra Costa, El Dorado, Santa Cruz and Tulare Sheriff's Departments. El Dorado County Sheriff's Department reports only the motor vehicles that have been stolen while a burglary was committed.

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DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS (continued)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance

The definition of "domestic violence" is subject to varying interpretations by law enforcement agencies. As a result, different types of domestic relationships are included in the database.

Included in the data are any cases which resulted in a report being written by the responding law enforcement agencies. Data, therefore, include both cases where an arrest was made and those where circumstances did not warrant an arrest.

Domestic violence-related calls for assistance which involved the use, or threat to use, a firearm, knife or cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon are reported by type of weapon regardless of the outcome or injury.

In 2002, the definition of a personal weapon was modified. The use of a personal weapon, such as hands, fists, or feet, was reported as a weapon only if the assault was considered an aggravated assault under Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines. An aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, e.g., broken bones, internal injuries, or required stitches.

Data for the San Francisco County Sheriff's Department is reported by the San Francisco Police Department.

JAIL PROFILE SURVEY

Type I facility: a local detention facility used for detainment of persons for not more than 96 hours after booking, excluding holidays. Type I facilities may also detain persons on a court order, for either their own safekeeping, or sentence persons to a city jail as an inmate worker. This facility may also house inmate workers sentenced to the county jail, provided such placement in the facility is made voluntarily by the inmate. As used in this section, they define an inmate worker as a person assigned to do designed tasks outside his/her cell or dormitory, pursuant to the written policy of the facility, for a minimum of four hours each day on a five-day scheduled work week.

Type II facility: a local detention facility for the detention of persons pending an arraignment, during a trial, or a sentence of commitment.

Type III facility: a local detention facility used only for persons convicted and sentenced.

Type IV facility: a local detention facility, or portion of it, designated for the housing of inmates eligible under Penal Code section 1208 for work/education furlough and/or other programs involving inmate access into the community.

 **2002 Profiles**